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The situation in Central America: progress in fashioning a region of peace, freedom, democracy and development

Proposed programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005

The situation in Central America: progress in fashioning a region of peace, freedom, democracy and development

Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/58/L.38

Twenty-sixth report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the statement submitted by the Secretary-General (A/C.5/58/30) in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly on the programme budget implications of draft resolution A/58/L.38, entitled "The situation in Central America: progress in fashioning a region of peace, freedom, democracy and development". During its consideration of the statement, the Advisory Committee met with representatives of the Secretary-General.

2. As indicated in paragraphs 4 to 6 of document A/C.5/58/30, the Secretary-General requests the continuation in 2004 of provisions for one political affairs officer post (at the P-4 level) and one General Service post, which would continue to provide support to the efforts of the Secretary-General in post-conflict peace-building in Central America. The political affairs officer would continue to monitor the Guatemalan peace process, providing support to the activities of the United Nations Verification Mission in Guatemala (MINUGUA). With regard to the peace-building process in El Salvador, the Political Affairs Officer would assist in the joint follow-up activities of the United Nations Development Programme and the Department of Political Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat to ensure compliance with pending issues from the 1992 peace agreement. The political affairs officer would also continue to follow developments in the Central American region as a whole.

3. The estimated costs related to the salaries and common staff costs of these two staff members (one P-4 and one General Service) for a one-year period from

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1 January to 31 December 2004 amount to $218,000. Other operational requirements relating to the two staff members would be covered within the overall budget of the Department of Political Affairs (A/C.5/58/30, para. 7).

4. A provision of $163.2 million (before re-costing) is requested for special political missions under section 3, Political affairs, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005. The utilization of the provision for political missions would be subject to individual mandates and approval by the General Assembly, as and when the Assembly and/or the Security Council establish or renew the mandates of such missions (A/58/6 (Sect. 3) and Corr.1 and 2, para. 3.56).

5. **With regard to the action required of the General Assembly, the Advisory Committee recommends that the Fifth Committee inform the Assembly that, should it adopt draft resolution A/58/L.38, the requirements for 2004 with respect to continuing to provide adequate support to the Secretary-General's efforts in Central America, in the amount of $218,000, would be charged against the provision for special political missions requested under section 3, Political affairs, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005 (see also the report of the Advisory Committee on estimates in respect of special political missions, good offices and other political initiatives authorized by the General Assembly and/or the Security Council (A/58/7/Add.18, para. 5).**